

12 June 1963

MEMORANDUM TO : Deputy for Technology/OSA

SUBJECT : Purcell Report

1. Dr. Scoville expressed the view last evening that it would be highly desirable to be able to express on paper to the DCI the staff views on the principal points of the Purcell Committee Report. This, hopefully, could be done very shortly after submission of the report early next week. As I know them now, these will be:

a. Make MURAL work at its best most of the time.

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c. Investigate intensively the use of image enhancement/intensification/photo multiplier techniques as a possible alternative to the large optics approach to ultimate resolution.

d. Press for a factor of two improvements in emulsion speed at equivalent levels of quality.

e. Conduct some night photographic experiments using satellites.

f. Explore, in a theoretical sense, the limits of angular resolution of the atmosphere.

g. Continue feasibility studies of []

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NRO

2. I am sure other remarks will be addressed to drones, political vulnerability, read-out, and satellite film evaluation vulnerability, but as of the moment I am unsure of their nature.

NRO review(s) completed.

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3. For what they are worth, my views on a. through g. are:

a. There does not seem to me to be an effective technical management arrangement to accomplish this as expeditiously as one could expect. The reasons are two:

(1) The SETD group is peopled only by one contractor and, hence, tends to place the onus of submaximum performance on others; they seem to enmesh themselves only in important, but not germane subjects such as the allocation of pins in electrical connectors.

(2) The CCB group has contented itself with argumentation and approval of papers generated by the SETD group.

I suggest a reconstitution of the old so-called "Autumn Leaves" Committee headed by a technically competent government SOB and composed of the minimum number of qualified people from Lockheed, Itek, Eastman, NPIC.

b. This is largely an Air Force matter, but your people are not well enough informed on a current basis to be of help if asked.

c. Ask ORD and TSD for a review of their knowledge of these arts. Here is an area where you should be prepared to place two or three feasibility study contracts very likely with new contractors. Dr. Gus Kinsel in his new capacity can help here. Itek have been working as well as Eastman on large optics, particularly on metal mirrors. You should be informed.

d. You know Eastman's customary attitude, but a little stimulation from another contractor has helped us in the past.

e. This is now possible, I am convinced, with MURAL. Reber's help will be forthcoming in justifying this A different emulsion spliced in, a filter change, and a slit variation seem to be required, plus careful attention to Agena stability in view of the relatively longer exposure times. An

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intelligent compromise must be made here on acceptable losses in daytime photography to obtain nighttime records, choice of latitudes, devotion of one or both cameras to the experiment.

Again an "Autumn Leaves" exercise may be the most suitable mechanism, but I would much prefer something of a more permanent and broader gauge nature in the way of technical management for such as this. The P experiment is both a cautionary and encouraging sign here. The revised plans indicate that more of the parameters are understood and the experiment is now much more likely to produce useful results. The fact that these plans had to be revised at the 11th hour show an earlier lack of appreciation and consequent untimely delay in carrying out the experiment. Perhaps this consideration is one involved in the much larger issue of your continuance in these programs and re-affirmation of lost prerogatives.

f. This can be done by setting up of somewhat arbitrary mathematical models of atmospheres. Vidya or Rand are familiar and competent. Two independent studies would be much in order.

g. The feasibility studies we have discussed are appropriate, but I suggest a more politically oriented study also by such as I.D.A. This would give a better basis of discussion on political circumstances, consequences, etc. P.S. Bissell is willing.

4. I have not discussed implementation of the Purcell report beyond its presentation to the DCI. I suspect he will discuss the contents with DOD officials. You may want to prepare for him a paper saying here is a summary of actions being taken by CIA and suggesting DOD may find other recommendations more appropriate for their response.



EUGENE P. KIEFER

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10 JUN 1963

Mr. Robert Widmer
Convair Division
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Bob,

I am indeed sorry that I didn't get a chance to see you on Wednesday to express our apologies for the rather abrupt curtailment of the Panel's agenda.

Unfortunately you were the vulnerable anchor-man and fell victim to time which was critical from the start. I am confident that you can appreciate the massive mileage which the Panel had to cover in closed sessions following the formalized briefings and before each member returned to their respective homes Wednesday afternoon.

I recognize that you had done considerable homework on your presentation and had devoted a good deal of time to it. Possibly it is not all in vain and should the Panel collectively meet again you will permit us to call upon you.

Sincerely,



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